NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

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AGRICULTURE.

From the Massachusetts Agricultural Journal.

ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR BREED OF HORNED CATTLE BY IMPORTATION.

We are induced to say something on this subject, not only because we think it an important one, but because some very able and interesting remarks have been made upon it by the venerable President of the Essex Agricultural Society.

In the course of his remarks and quotations, he has been pleased to refer to the editors of this journal, or at least to one of them, and he has cited passages, which might lead readers to infer that we entertain the opinion, that little benefit will be derived from importing the improved races of Great Britain (at least such might be the inference drawn from them). It is probable, also, that most persons who may read the essays of Col. Pickering, will believe that he is of opinion, that these importations of foreign stock are of little importance, and of course, that the attempt to cross the imported animals with our own stock, is nearly useless labour and expense.

Such is the general effect of the remarks, and such we think will be the impression, and as his weight of character and great opportunities both of reading the most approved books on this topic, and of seeing various descriptions of cattle in all parts of the United States, justly entitle him to a great share of public confidence, we think it a duty we owe to the public to state our own views upon the subject. We are not opposed to what we believe to be Col. Pickering's opinions. We coincide with him in the greater part of them, but we think the tendency of his essays is to discourage the attempt to improve our own breeds by foreign crosses, and this *tendency* we regret, and shall give our reasons for regretting it.

We begin then by saying, that we presume our ancestors very early ceased the importation of cattle from England. The ships were small, crowded with passengers and their effects; the passages long, the transport expensive, and we assume it as probable, that few cattle, if any, were imported after 1650.

It is well known, that the agriculture of England was then in a low state compared with its present condition. Successions of crops were nearly unknown; root crops for winter fodder were, we believe, entirely so. The prices of cattle were small, no great encouragement had been given to improve the breed. It is probable, therefore, that the cattle imported were not of a very improved race.

On the other hand, there can be no doubt, that our climate and pastures are well adapted to the preservation of cattle in as good a state as when imported, and rather to improve them. This we infer from the *fact*, that they are so fine, rather than from any general reasoning derived from our climate and soil, and still less from our treatment of them. If we regarded those only, we should say, that the heat of our summers, and length and severity of our winters, were unfavourable to an animal impatient of great heat and severe cold, and thriving much better on green succulent food than on dry meadow hay. In a short excursion made this spring into the country, we found the cows turned out to very short pastures, (on the 18th of May) thin, feeble and in every respect miserable. We speak of the great mass of them: and we understand the common practice to be, to feed the cows on meadow hay, reserving the more substantial food for their working cattle and horses.

Now it does not seem to us possible, that we can have materially improved our horned cattle since we imported them; that we have preserved them so perfect as they are in Vermont, in Hampshire and Worcester counties of Massachusetts, is rather a matter of some surprise, proving we think clearly, that a little more care in providing against the cold of winter, and its impoverishing diet, would enable us to surpass Great Britain in this important article of husbandry.

As the agriculture of Great Britain has gone on daily and regularly in an improving course, ever since the middle of the seventeenth century, and more especially since the middle of the last century, while ours has continued stationary or even retrograde, till within the last 50 years, it would naturally be expected that their race of horned cattle would gradually improve, and more especially since their opulent farmers have devoted their attention to their improvement. The spirit of rivalship, the great prices paid for more than 50 years for fine bulls and cows must have had this effect.

Let us take an example which is more easily examined, because it is much more obvious, their races of sheep. Surely it will not be questioned, that the Dishley or New Leicester race of sheep, are far superior to any which we raise, (the merino an imported race alone excepted, on account of its fine fleece). We have no good race of native sheep, and we have no sheep to compare with those of Great Britain. Why is this so? Possibly because the perpetual verdure of England is more favourable to the propagation of sheep; but we think that it is principally owing to neglect on our part.

The same thing is true with respect to swine. The Bedford, a spotted race, first introduced into Massachusetts by Col. Pickering, is far superior to any one which we before possessed. Since the introduction of these, there have been other breeds introduced, which, so far as we can judge by description and by prints, are the race called in England the Berkshire, or perhaps crossed with the Chinese, which for aptitude for fattening, and for profit, are far superior to our old, long-legged race, who consumed the farmer as well as the fruits of his industry.

We believe, and we believe because we have seen, that the horned cattle of Great Britain are as a whole body, superior to our own. If Col. Pickering should pass a six weeks' tour in England, he would feel as we do, that it is not a question to be discussed, but a point settled. Twenty-two years since we spent a twelve-month in that country. We shall say nothing of the shows of cattle at the Smithfield club celebration, nothing of the Lewis show of cattle. We admit, that when Dukes, and Marquises, with incomes of 500,000 dollars, are patrons and competitors, animals may be produced of *any* form, and of *any* reasonable dimensions. Money and care will put flesh in any quantity, and in the most profitable parts of any animal of good form. We shall therefore omit any reference to their cattle shows as compared with our own. Any picture of them (however true in itself) would appear to be as exaggerated, as an attempt to give an idea of the confluence of passengers, and the extent and vastness of London would be to an inhabitant of the thriving town of Worcester. It is not a thing to be described. It can only be half understood by seeing it, for the mind is so bewildered and lost, that it loses at least half its powers of perception.

We say nothing, therefore, of the professed exhibitions of rare animals, but this we do say, that when we travel through England, we find ourselves among a race of improved horned cattle, nearly every one of which we *covet*. Let Mr Marshall or Mr Young (old writers) say what they will, nothing can destroy the effect of ocular demonstration. The cattle of England are far superior to our own, as a body, and it is not precisely correct to compare individual exceptions in our country with general and average statements of whole counties in England. We are sorry to say further, that the cattle of the low countries and of Normandy, appeared to us much finer than our own, in a visit made to these countries eight years since. They were in better condition, and much fewer miserable individuals among them. They had learned the important lesson, that a poor animal is not worthy of its support. We have always thought with Col. Pickering, that our country possesses at this moment, a race of cows, and possibly of bulls, which selected with care, their progeny raised, and kept from contamination with inferior animals, for five or six generations, would produce a race of cattle which we might shew with pride at Smithfield. But who are our capitalists that will select and take due care of them? Where is the man who has so cautiously guarded the progeny of a fine cow? and if he did, unless he should raise her bull calves as husbands, how can he hope to keep the race pure?

Would there be any question in the mind of any sensible cultivator about to raise his own stock, that if a neighbour had improved his own race so that they were eminently fitted for the various uses of this most important agricultural animal for milk, for beef, and for draught, that it would be for his interest to procure that stock, and to sell off his own miserable breed? We trust not. Well, then, another nation has done this for us. She offers you the effect of 50 years' experiment. Will you refuse it? We hope not.

The Massachusetts Agricultural Society offered a premium for the importation of the best races of Great Britain. They came. The premiums were awarded. The public admired the animals. The public may have been deceived: they may have been carried away by the novelty. Still they lingered, and looked, and crowded round these imported animals. They thought

that they were superior to any of their own. Experienced farmers, herdsmen, butchers, so pronounced them; they awarded the premiums. Still this may all be infatuation, the mere love of novelty. They produced calves: the calves were better formed, grew faster, had flesh on more valuable parts, had better hair, and "*finer feel*," indicating a disposition to fatten; they weighed more on the same keeping. Was all this illusion? We think not. We say we *think* not; we add, we know it is not *all illusion*. We know it to be founded on good and substantial grounds. We had some excellent cows of native race which we had carefully kept through three successive generations, and we have been amply rewarded for it. We have recently crossed them with the foreign breeds; the calves were manifestly superior. Not having a large farm, we parted with the calves to our friends, and recently upon inquiry of a friend who had two of our calves, and had a stock of eleven cows, we found the two highest as to milkers, were of this mixed race.

We have now two cows of the mixed race, one out of Fill Pail, and one out of Mr. Parsons' Holderness, and they are much superior to any cows we have been able to purchase for 20 years. We are now raising calves of the half blood to supply the cows which are now getting aged. One advantage they certainly have; they keep their flesh better without diminishing their milk. Still there are native cows, a very few, as good, and some better.

We now proceed to the most important consideration in relation to these imported animals.

Their calves sell better; they are more carefully watched; they have introduced a habit of attention to stock; they excite a spirit of rivalry, and one of the most valuable and important effects of the late interesting letters of Col. Pickering will probably be to induce our farmers to endeavour to compete with and surpass the imported breeds.

While Col. Jaques, the most successful and the most intelligent of our breeders, who under great disadvantages of location, seems to rival the celebrated Bakewell in his skill and attention, can sell his pure breed, as he has done this spring at 300 dollars for an eight months' bull calf, there can be no doubt that the experiment will be fairly tried. As Col. Pickering does not seem to believe that any serious evil has resulted from the importation of a *worse stock*, we think we may safely encourage the crosses of this race with our own, keeping in mind as we ought to do, as he wisely suggests, that for the most ready and rapid way to improve our stock, is to select and raise only the best of our own breed.

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING FIRE.

[*Extracted from a letter from M. Van Marum to Mr Berthollet. Nich. Jour. vol. V. p.* 103.]

"I took two casks, which had been full of pitch, and of which the inside was yet well covered with that inflammable substance; the heads of these were taken out, and in order to assist the operation of combustion, I gave them a conical shape, placing the larger aperture of twenty inches diameter uppermost, the other of sixteen inches diameter below, mounted on a three legged stand, a few inches from the ground, so that the fire might be kept as brisk as possible by the free current of air passing through the cask. I covered the inside of each cask with a fresh coat of pitch, and having placed shavings of wood in each, I lighted them, one after the other. I began to extinguish this fire when it was at its height. For this purpose I made use of an iron ladle capable of holding two ounces of water, and provided with a very long handle; being kept at the distance of four or five feet by the volume of the fire. I carefully poured the water from this ladle in very small streams along the inside of the cask, and moving it gradually along the edge as the flames ceased. In this way the first ladlefull of water extinguished nearly one half of the fire, and what remained was effectually put out by a ladlefull in the same manner. The striking success of this experiment induced me to repeat it in the presence of many persons, and with care and attention in the application and management of water, I have more than once succeeded in extinguishing a highly ignited cask with a single ladlefull, of two ounces, of water."

Mr Van Marum in explaining the theory which is developed by this experiment says that "when a small quantity of water is thrown upon a highly ignited body, part of that water is instantly converted into steam, which rising from the surface of the burning body, prevents the contact of the atmospherick air, and by that means puts out the flame, which cannot appear again while the production of the steam is continued."

"According to these experiments," he continues, "it appears that the art of extinguishing a violent fire with a small quantity of water consists in this: that the water be thrown on that part of the fire which is the most violent; so that the quantity of steam, produced which suppresses the flame may be the greatest possible: that water be continued to be thrown in the neighbouring inflamed parts, as soon as the fire has ceased in that in which the operation was begun and that all the burning parts be visited in this way as soon as possible. By thus following the flames regularly with streams of water, they may be every where suppressed before the part on which the operation was begun shall have entirely lost, by evaporation, the water with which it was moistened; this is often necessary to prevent the parts from breaking out afresh; for on the principles above mentioned, a burning body of which the flames are suppressed cannot be again in flames until the water thrown on it be totally evaporated."

Mr Van Marum then relates experiments made on a larger scale, one of which we will transcribe from the account given of it by Von Zach a celebrated German astronomer.

Dr Van Marum being at Gotha, in the course of a literary journey, which he was making in Germany in 1793, the Duke of Gotha well known as an amateur of the physical and mathematical sciences, signified his desire to see on a large scale, that experiment of extinguishing fires, the effect of which M. Van Marum had shown him, in extinguishing a pitched cask, set on fire, with a small ladle of water. He caused a building to be constructed under M. Van Marum's direction, in the dutchess's garden, of equal dimensions in all respects with that used for the same experiment at Harlaem, which was 24 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 14 feet high. It had two doors on the north east side, and two window-like openings on the north-west side; the top was left entirely open to give the flames free vent; the inside of this receptacle was plastered with pitch and afterwards covered with straw mats, on which melted pitch had been poured. To the bottom of these mats cotton wicks, soaked in spirits of turpentine, were suspended, that so the building might be every where on fire at the same time. In this state the fire excited by the wind, was soon so violent that the flames with thick clouds of smoke, were carried several feet above the opening of the roof, and so fiercely, that the spectators assembled about the building quickly drew back; many were of opinion that it would not be possible to extinguish it, but that the building must be reduced to ashes. When the straw mats were entirely consumed, the interior wood work of the building was soon on fire in every part. The most unfavorable circumstances attended this experiment; for the wind drove the flames directly through the doors on the north-east side, by which it had been intended to introduce the streams of water to extinguish them; but notwithstanding this, Mr Van Marum placed a small portable pump or engine before the door in that part of the north east side of the building nearest to the south east side; without regarding the apprehension of his assistants, he set it in action, and placed himself before this door, as near as the intense heat of the fire would admit, he directed the streams of water first towards the south east side, and as near the door as possible, and continued until the flames were extinguished on the side, and sprinkled with water in the same direction; after which the water was directed along the south west side and afterwards the north east, so that in a few minutes the flames were got under, and the burning partitions were extinguished. After this the pump was placed before one of the openings in the north west side. He also very soon extinguished the north west side; and lastly coming to the centre of the building, where the fire appeared here and there in the chinks of the boards and the holes left by the nails, breaking out at intervals in small flashes, he entirely extinguished them and thus perfectly subdued this violent fire. It was estimated by several of the spectators, that the fire was extinguished at most in three minutes from the commencement of the action of the pumps to the time when the wood just remained burning, and broke out afresh in some places; these renewals were however so inconsiderable, that the burning parts were quenched by means of some wet rags fastened to a stick. Before setting the pump to work, its reservoir was filled with four buckets of water; but in carrying it to the first window of the building, and from thence to the middle of it, near a bucket full was spilt; so that it may be positively affirmed, that this violent fire was extinguished with three buckets of water excluding that which was afterwards used to quench those parts of the building which remained red. It was easily observed, when the flame was out, that not only the straw mats were burned, but the entire wood work of the building had been on fire, insomuch that the smallest part of wood could not be found in the inside of the building which had not been more or less severely burnt. The north-east side in particular, against which the wind drove the flames with the utmost violence was entirely charred."

Mr Van Zach continues, "the result of the foregoing fact is, that in applying the method of extinguishing fire, the circumstances to be observed are these, that to extinguish the most violent fire, it is only necessary to wet the surface of the burning matter in the part where the flames are seen, and that for this purpose only a small quantity of water is needful, if the parts be wetted in the proper manner. In operations of this kind, therefore particular attention must be paid to throwing the water in such a way, that the entire surface of the burning part shall be wetted and extinguished, and that in such a way that an extinguished part shall never be left between two others which are in flames; for if attention be not paid to this, the heat of the flames burning here and there will quickly change the water with which the part has been wetted into steam, and the whole will again take fire. In order then, to extinguish a fire in all cases, no more water need be thrown on the burning part than is needful to wet its surface; and this I conceive to be all that is requisite to extinguish a fire, whatever may be the circumstances of its origin."

Remarks by the Editor of the New England Farmer. I have frequently taken notice of what appeared to me to be a bad mode of conducting the engines, in cases of fire in London, New York, Philadelphia, and Boston. The water is generally thrown into the air, so as to be converted into steam, or very small drops, and thus but a very small portion of it reaches the burning part, the source or fountain of flame. Steam, or even small drops of water, has a tendency to increase a violent fire.—Perhaps this is occasioned by the conversion of the latent heat which water contains into sensible heat, or in some cases by the reduction of the water to its component parts, hydrogen and oxygen; the former of which is a highly inflammable substance, and the latter a supporter of combustion. Thus a shower of rain is said to increase the rage of a volcano, and a few drops of water accidentally percolating into the midst of a furnace, when in blast, have caused most violent explosions.

That water, when converted into steam, has a capacity of increasing flame, would appear from the operation of the hydraulick bellows, invented by Mr. Hornblower, and described in Nicholson's Journal, for March, 1802. In this machine, the air which gives the blast, is forced through water, and the inventor says that there existed a striking difference between the effect of this bellows and a common leathered 30 inch bellows in the same shop. The leathered bellows threw considerable more air into the fire, and its nozzle, compared to the hydraulick bellows, was as 73 to 60 in diameter, *but it did not produce so great an effect in bringing on the heat*, and the voice of the former was so great as to almost drown that of the common one.

Neither Mr. Nicholson, nor his correspondent, Mr. Hornblower, attempts to explain the cause of this phenomenon. But may we not conjecture that air, from the hydraulick bellows, being forced through a body of water contained a portion of it in solution, or in the form of steam, and that the heat of the water thus held in solution was converted into sensible heat, in the forge, and thus became a species of fuel, as well as an assistant or stimulus to the combustion.

This hypothesis is coroborated by a fact stated in the Philosophical Journal, No. 45. By this it appears that the steam of an engine, after work, was thrown into a chimney; that it had the effect to render the smoke invisible, and became itself immediately so transparent as not to be distinguished. When the smoke was shut off, the steam became visible, and when the steam was shut off the smoke became visible. But what perhaps applies to our hypothesis, the draught of the chimney was found to be increased by the admision of the steam into the flue.

This increase of the draught of the chimney was doubtless the consequence of an increase of heat, occasioned by what I will venture to call the combustion of the steam.

If these premises are correct, it would appear that water in small drops, like dew, or in the form of mist or steam, increases the effect of a strong fire, from the same principles that a shower increases the flame of a volcano; and that in extinguishing a fire, it ought to be applied directly to the surface of the burning part, and not impelled or dropped through such a column of flame or calorick as to be converted into steam, and in that state rather excite than extinguish the combustion.

Warm Weather.—From about 7 o'clock on the morning of the 10th to nearly noon on the 13th inst. the weather has been of a temperature, which can scarcely be paralleled in the meteorological annals of our climate. The themometer, during the most of that period, in the day time has ranged between 95 and 100, and in the night has never fallen below 77. The consequences of this high temperature have been very afflictive. It is estimated that the deaths from exposure to heat, and imprudently drinking cold water have been between twenty five and thirty in Boston.

CARNATION PINKS.

Of this splendid flower, which in addition to its great beauties, unites so delightful an odour that it has received also the title of *Clove Pink*, above twelve hundred plants are now in full bloom at the Linnæan Garden at Flushing, Long Island. The collection includes above one hundred varieties of *flakes* and *bizarres*, a large proportion of which are of that class denominated *rose leaved*.

Two very excellent societies have been recently formed in the county of Worcester, Mass. which deserves to be held up by way of example, to other counties and states of the Union.—The first is called the Worcester Historical Society, and is instituted for the purpose of collecting and preserving materials for a complete and minute history of the county; including facts and traditions of the Indians. The second is a Lyceum, the object of which is to obtain, examine, and preserve, the vegetable, animal, and mineral productions of the country. Of the progress of the first of these institutions, no statement appears; but the Lyceum is already said to contain specimens of about 2000 minerals, 1500 shells, 600 plants, many insects, numerous engravings, and other articles of curiosity, together with a respectable library of rare and valuable books.

I have seen the most violent cases of Cramp in the Stomach immediately relieved by drinking freely of warm sweetened water, when opium, or its various preparations, nor any thing else would give relief to the patient. Believing that this hint may probably be the means of relief to some one or more afflicted with the above awful complaint, I think it my duty to make this communication.—*Norwich Courier.*

EXPLOITS OF A WEASEL.

A kite was observed rising from the ground with some prey, and instead of flying to an adjoining wood, he soared almost perpendicular. After remaining a short time stationary, he came gradually down, with his wings extended and motionless, and dropt very near the place from which he had risen. Several persons who were near, and saw the flight and descent, ran immediately to the spot, and a weasel darted from the kite, which they found dead; and they discovered on examination, that the kite had been bitten in the throat, an bled to death. Near it they found a dead mole, yet warm, which was bitten in the neck; and they concluded that the weasel had caused the death of both—*Eng. pap.*

POISONOUS FISH.

We have heard several instances of persons being poisoned by eating oysters, lobsters and halibut. If, as is generally the case, the poisonous quality in the fish is produced by mineral substances, it can easily be detected by applying a piece of clean silver, which will turn black if the fish be poisonous.

MEMOIRS of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society; with selections from the most approved authors, adapted to the use of the practical Farmers of the United States; 1824. Illustrated with several copperplate engravings of animals and numerous cuts of machines and agricultural implements.—For sale by
CUMMINGS, HILLIARD & CO.
Price $1.25. No. 134 Washington street.

FOR SALE, a very fine Milch Cow, not five years old, that has given the present season on grass feed alone, *eighteen* quarts of milk a day. She is a fine looking animal, in perfect health, and is not offered for sale for any fault. Inquire at this office.
July 8.

NATH. DEARBORN, *Engraver*—No. 64 Market str't.

'TIS usual with an advertiser,
To plead his cause with prosing lines;
But listening to a new adviser,
Who speeds the poet's glorious times!
We deck the bantling, by adoption,
And press the muses in our claim;
The point, we leave at public option
For self, dear self is all our aim,
Fair ladies' cards, engraved, beautiful,
And printed to delight the eye;
Their lordship's too, attend we, dutiful,
Cheerily their every wish supply—
With brass or silver names for doors;
Seals for the merchant, gent. free mason,
Cards for their parties, visits, stores,
To mark their cloths, or books to place on.
The printer's call is quick attended,
To furnish "heads,"—indite their "wishes";
With strength and beauty choicely blended,
To spice their intellectual dishes.
The cuts for papers, brass or wood,
Or poet's corner, if in favour,
We often dress to suit the mood,
Of bright'ning gem or witless savour.
Thus we a patronage solicit,
And pledge our choicest, best exertions,
Of toil, will give quantum sufficit,
Please try, and prove these our assertions. j. 15.

E. PARSONS & CO. City Furniture warehouse, Union Street, near the Union Stone, keep constantly on hand for sale, a general assortment of furniture, chairs, looking glasses, feathers of all kinds, fire sets, brushes, bellows, &c. &c.

PATENT HOES—Notice is hereby given, that the subscribers are appointed the sole agents for vending *J. & A. Fale's Patent Hoes*, which are offered for sale at factory prices by A.D.WELD & J. FRENCH Jr.
Boston, March 25, 1825. No. 713 Washington St.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

GRAFTING FRUIT TREES AND STRIPPING THEM OF THEIR BARK.

Sir,—In No. 42, vol. III. of your paper are two qestions by E. S. Fish; having had some experience in grafting I will express my opinion. Something like thirty years ago, I commenced raising a nursery of apple trees from the seeds. When the trees were, generally, of a suitable size for grafting near the ground, some were too large; these were taken up and set out (planted I suppose learned farmers would say) some for myself and some for others. The remaining part of the nursery was engrafted.—Those that I set for myself were engrafted at the end of one year; those set for others were not engrafted. Those not engrafted produced fruit as soon as those that were. I have frequently had grafts blossom the first year, that were put into seedling stocks, but they did not produce fruit any sooner than those which were not grafted. I have taken scions from sprouts and engrafted them on fruit bearing trees, and found that they did not produce fruit so soon as scions from the ends of limbs from fruit bearing trees. I have not grafted a scion from a seedling on a bearing tree; if experiment had been my object, it would have been done. From all the observation I have been able to make, I am satisfied that fruit is not produced from an engrafted tree until the stock and scion are *both* of a bearing age.

The answer which you have given to Mr Capron's question, "Why will a tree, when stripped of its bark about the middle of June, grow faster, and at another season of the year, the same operation destroy the tree in a very short time?" I think is not the true one. Having had some experience in stripping trees of their bark, and not to the advantage of my trees, I, of course paid some attention to the whole process. About the middle of June the sap becomes thick and forms another ring, or grain of wood. If the bark be taken off at this time, the sap, instead of making another grain of wood, makes bark. In taking off the bark, if the sap is broken there will come no bark in the broken place. If after the bark is taken off the wood should be scraped, there would no bark come, and I see not why it should not as effectually kill the tree, as if stripped at any other season of the year.

Yours respectfully
LOVETT PETERS.

Westborough, June 20, 1825.

[REMARKS BY THE EDITOR.]

The foregoing would have had an earlier insertion, had not the space which we had reserved for it been occupied by articles particularly adapted to the season, and which, if delayed, could be of no *immediate* utility. The subject of scions for grafting &c. has been so elaborately and ably handled by some of our correspondents, that it would seem unnecessary to traverse the ground again. There can be no doubt but that in general, if you wish for immediate produce from grafting, the best and safest way is to take *fruit bearing scions*, and graft them in *fruit bearing stocks*.

With regard to stripping trees of their bark, we would observe that we gave our opinion on Mr Capron's question, on the spur of the occasion, with a general, and rather faint recollection of what connoisseurs had said on the subject. We have since consulted some authorities, and among others find the following in one of the Papers on Agriculture, published some years since, by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society.

"M.D. Huneken of Corpzow (in the Russian dominions,) communicated to Mr Frisch a method of renewing the bark of fruit trees, practised in his large and fine orchard. If any of his apple or pear trees had a rough bark, or if any cherry tree was troubled with gum or knots, or if any other cause even of suspicion arose as to the future fertility of the tree from an imperfection in the bark, M. de Huneken caused the entire bark of the trunk to be taken away from the place where the lower limbs spread themselves out, down to the entrance of the trunk into the ground. *He was not content with displacing the outer and harder bark, but removed even the inner and more tender one; uniformly laying bare the white sap wood* (the alburnum;) and destroying for this purpose, the fine fibres within. The author was astonished at such particulars. But M. de Huneken having afterwards shown to Mr Frisch many trees *newly* stripped of their bark, and others with their bark *recently renewed*, he became convinced experimentally of a fact, which he says was not only new to himself, but probably had never before been heard of by them, to whom he addressed his paper."

It was with the permission of M. de Huneken, Mr Frisch subjoined to his narrative the *rules* which had been observed for conducting the process in question of which the following is the substance; The time of the summer solstice (or of the longest days) is to be used, *when the sap is particularly liquid* and abundant; paying attention only to the position of the trees; which, from being more or less exposed to the sun, may have their sap more or less advanced by the season. 2d. The operation must be made complete; for if any of the old bark should be left behind, it would deform the tree by its mixture with the new bark. 3d. A goose's feather must be employed to spread about the sap from the parts where it is stagnant, to the parts which are dry. 4th. To prevent the heat of the sun from affecting the running of the sap, the trunk must be shaded (especially to the south) by cloths, mats, or such other articles as present themselves; and similar care must be taken to keep off the winds producing *dust* of any kind. 5th. And lastly, the new and tender bark must on no account be disturbed by being handled, since the slightest friction will injure it."

In our answer to Mr Capron's question relative to stripping trees of their bark, we observed that "the reason why it succeeds better about the middle of June than any other time of the year we suppose to be, because the tree is at that time in its most vigorous state and the sap circulating with freedom enables the tree to renew its covering, which is essential to its existence."* Mr Frisch says "the time of the summer solstice is to be used, when the *sap is particularly liquid* and abundant." The reason which we gave is, perhaps, what logicians would call *causa sine qua non*, that is the cause *without which*, the effect would not be produced. If the tree was *not* in a vigorous state and the sap did *not* circulate with freedom, it could neither make "another grain of wood," nor a new layer of "bark" as stated by Mr Peters. But the cause assigned by Mr Peters is the *proximate* cause, or that link in the chain of causes and effects, which most immediately precedes the effect in question. If the sap had not by the middle of June become in some measure "thick," (or *inspissated* as the learned call it) and of a consistence to "form another ring or grain of wood" or layer of bark as the case may require, the process could not succeed. Mr Frisch's reason we should think, is not correct, because the sap "is not particularly liquid" at the time of the "summer solstice," but has become more thick, viscid or clammy than when it begins to circulate in the spring.

We think, however, that the process of stripping trees has not, generally, realized the expectations which have been formed from it; and though it may succeed if the precautions mentioned by Mr Frisch are duly attended to, it is at best in our climate, a troublesome, violent, and hazardous remedy. In hot climates, and where the bark is of great value, it is doubtless a useful practice. In the paper published by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, above quoted, it is stated that "in the case of the cork tree, we are told that the repetition of this process is even friendly to the tree."

* See page 345 of the current volume.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

CULTIVATING CORN.

Saugus, July 9, 1825.

Friend Fessenden—I trust you will permit me to occupy a small portion of your useful paper, by way of reply to a late communication signed "Wm. Selby." He appears not to have exactly understood the article he so freely comments on. He says, I complain that I was nearly ruined by a statement in your paper of a large crop of corn in New York."—I asserted that the final result of my experiment was an abundance of *stalks*, but not a single ear of corn in full perfection; and that this would be the result whenever corn was planted in that method.

I shall now try to prove this last assertion—so far as it is capable of demonstration on paper. It is well known that the common Yankee method of planting corn, is in hills at 4 feet distance, each way with 5 kernels in a hill. This would give 13530 stalks to the acre.—The plan adopted by Mr Selby "$2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart widthwise, and one foot lengthwise, one kernel in a hill," would give 17325 stalks to the acre.—One acre of ground planted, according to the N. York method, would give more than five times as many stalks as the common Yankee method; and more than four times as many according to Mr Selby's method.—Yes, Mr. Editor, it would give the enormous quantity of 69630 stalks to the acre, if we are not mistaken in our calculations.—And now let me ask all *practical farmers* to put their "old fashioned sense" or their "*true common sense*" into full and complete operation, and then say if they can make 69630 stalks of Indian corn produce good ears, and grow to perfection, on one acre of ground.

Mr Selby charges me with casting "*illiberal* aspersions on so excellent a publication as the N. E. Farmer." If I have done any thing of this sort, I regret it much, and can truly say I did not intend it.—I venture to assert that I read the N. E. Farmer as much and as often as Mr Selby does, and have procured as many subscribers. I, however, shall not deny that I was disappointed, and somewhat chagrined, at the unfortunate result of my experiment.

Probably my feelings on this occasion were similar to those of honest Mingo, who had planted a quantity of beans, which came up in due time. Unfortunately for Mingo, at the time his beans came up, he was visited by a person who

told him his beans had come up the wrong end first, and that they must be pulled up and turned the other way.—It is hardly necessary to add that the consequence was a total failure of the crop, both of *stalks* and beans too.—But perhaps honest Mingo did not manage right.—I certainly did not, according to Mr Selby; for he says "if he had not suffered the *suckers* to grow more than six inches long, he might have been sure of an abundant crop."

Peradventure friend Selby may be induced to plant a field of a few acres on the New York plan; he will then have an opportunity to sucker his corn as often as he pleases, but I apprehend that he will find that it will want *succour* that he will not be able to give, unless he possesses the power of throwing the rays of the sun, which naturally fall on three or four acres, into one acre.

Thy Friend truly, T. B.

Remarks by the Editor.—We are sorry that disputes should exist between our friends and coadjutors in the important concerns of improving American husbandry. But sometimes collisions of opinion, like those of flint and steel, may elicit light, which may prove useful. We have already, in some observations appended to a former communication of our correspondent T. B. expressed our opinion that the mode of cultivating Indian corn, said to have been adopted by Messrs. John and Matthew Pratt, of Eaton, Madison County, N. Y. and detailed in our vol. II, page 326, appeared to be objectionable. We said, (page 315 of the present volume,) that in the mode of culture adopted by Messrs. Pratt, "the width between the drills was less than is commonly recommended or in use; and when in addition to this there were *three rows* inserted in each drill, and the plants but six inches apart in the rows, it would seem very probable that they would stand too near together to produce large and sound ears." T. B. has corroborated that opinion by his mathematical calculation given above. Our apology for giving the original statement relative to the crop of the N. Y. cultivators is, that it had the usual marks of authenticity, and we conceive the poet's apothegm not amiss, who says "no argument like matter of fact is." Still we may have been deceived with regard to those facts, or some circumstances not mentioned in the statement, may have caused the result to be different from what it would be, in any attempt to adopt Messrs. Pratts' mode of culture with no other light than what the statement relative to their crops affords. Their corn might have been of a small kind and so suckered or *pruned*, (if I may be allowed the expression in this case) that only one stalk to each kernel planted should be suffered to become more than 5 or 6 inches long before it was cut away. And this management *might*, *perhaps*, cause the result of their culture to be so different from that of the experiment detailed by T. B. page 314 of the current volume of our paper.

Mr Selby, (see page 361 of our current volume) in adverting to the experiment of T. B. observes that "if he had not suffered the suckers to grow more than 6 inches long, he might have been sure of an abundant crop." Mr Selby, however, does not tell us that he ever tried the experiment, though he says, "I have no fear of planting corn too thick, provided I manure in proportion to the plants, and sucker the corn faithfully." But we should much prefer, in raising corn on a large scale, to adopt his own mode of culture, as stated in this same article, than setting more than four times the number of plants on an acre, without further inquiry or experiment according to Messrs. Pratts' plan. Mr Selby's observations on suckering corn &c. appear to be correct, and as they have been sanctioned by experience, and are of a process by which he has "uniformly raised from 80 to 100 bushels of corn to the acre," we must conclude that his directions may be safely and profitably followed. Still we wish that Messrs. Pratts' mode of culture might be again tried on a small scale, with a small kind of corn, and attention to taking off the suckers as above mentioned.

FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

EVILS OF INTEMPERANCE.

Mr Fessenden,—Confident of your sincere devotion to the cause in which you are engaged, the first and greatest interest of our country,—confident also of your candour, (and I hope for that of your readers also should you deem the suggestions below worth inserting in your very useful paper,) I venture to offer you a few facts of my own experience and observation, and a few thoughts suggested by these facts. The subject is deeply interesting to our agricultural interests, but by no means confined to these, but extends itself widely through the great and small public and private interests of our nation, and of every part of it. It is nothing less, nor other than the excessive use of ardent spirits, that curse of our nation.

But sir, neither you nor your readers need feel alarmed lest you or they should be condemned to toil through a long philipic against *rum*, and its poisonous consequences. No, sir, I give that up as a hopeless attempt, at least for me; while I have eyes to see, and ears to hear, and a heart to bleed for those dreadful consequences, in ruined, and most wretched husbands, wives, children, and almost whole communities,—ruined, wretched, in body, and soul, for this world and for the world to come,—yet I have not a pen to describe this tenfold ruin.—I will only refer generally, to the observations and reflections, of all your philanthropic and patriotic readers, trusting that their philanthropy and patriotism will excite their most earnest and persevering reflections and efforts to correct and remedy so great and deadly an evil.

But I will beg your indulgence while I relate a few facts which have occurred under my own observation and experience in my agricultural attempts,—and which have confirmed my long settled conviction that farmers, who of all men are at least as well entitled as any to the best living that the earth can give, would do much better without the use of ardent spirits than with it,—even in their severest and most exhausting labors.

I think I have been uncommonly fortunate in my steady help, by the year; but when I have occasion to hire extra labor, by the day, in haying, and harvesting, it is then that I particularly see, and feel the bad effects of ardent spirits.—For with such day laborers I have not yet been able to cope. Work they will not without rum,—and that too without stint, and I must either yield to them or submit to lose some of my hay or grain, or let it suffer, by which I still lose much more than by the rum they drink.

But by yielding to this tyrant, custom, I lose another way; and that is that my work is not so well done, my tools and bars are broken, and my posts carried away by the end of the axletree,—and other similar injuries, the consequence of too much rum. But this is not all, I have sometimes, after having laid out a good deal of work for tomorrow, been very much disappointed, and suffered loss by one or more of these day laborers making themselves so sick by last night's drunkenness as to be totally incapable of labor for one or two days.

Such, sir, are a few of the evils of my own experience; which are enough to convince any one of the evil of the use of ardent spirits. But to add to this the further conviction that persons can do better without than with it, I do assure you that my regular help, with whom I always stipulate to use no ardent spirit, at any time, about their labor, upon the same fare with these day laborers, excepting the spirit, do more labor in the same time, and do it much better,—and with much less fatigue to themselves; are much fresher for labor the next morning, and have better appetites to their diet.

Now, sir, my reflections from this experience are the following. Though I can neither do without these veteran tiplers,—nay drunkards, occasionally, nor subdue their inveterate bad habits, in the use of spirits,—yet I will so calculate my business as to have as little occasion for them as possible; and whenever my employment for them and for all mechanics and laborers of every description will admit of the disuse I will not, on any terms, furnish them ardent spirits; and I will lend such influence as I have to guard the rising generation against such destructive habits. I will even attempt to make these worse than brutes subservient to my efforts with the rising generation, by holding them up to merited contempt and reprobation.

I forbear, sir, to notice the dreadful consequences of this same evil habit among all our mechanics; except to remark that it prevails much more with them than with farmers, as a distinct class in the community,—and that its effects are equally pernicious. But as this is a deadly and increasing malady,—and as you, sir, are our great agricultural physician, will you not consider this case, and prescribe such a catholic remedy as will utterly extirpate the evil from the community;—and thus confer on your country and the world a greater blessing than ever before enriched it. W.

SELECTIONS

FROM LATE EUROPEAN PUBLICATIONS FOR THE NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

To the Editors of the Farmers' Journal.

ON THE VALUE OF MANGEL WURTZEL.

Essex, April 8th, 1825.

Sir,—As the season is now arrived to sow the Mangel Wurtzel seed, and to continue sowing it through the next month of May, an old practitioner wishes to suggest through the medium of your Journal, a few hints on the culture of it, which he thinks will be found useful.

At first, always supposing the land clear, the same quantity of manure should be bestowed as for turnips. Sow from four to five pounds weight per acre. The writer has tried various methods of sowing it, but prefers drilling in the seed on flat work, at twenty-seven inches' distance, between the rows: that space allows free scope for

the hand-hoe to clear the intervals when weeds appear in them. The plants should be set out twelve inches distant in the rows, and if that work is done by the hand, several advantages may be derived from it; the best plants may be selected, and the weeds being eradicated, will (in common seasons,) render the use of the hand-hoe unnecessary. These observations will, however, be useless if care is not taken in sowing the seed to deposit it the least possible depth in the earth; for from burying it deep have arisen disappointment to the farmers, discredit to the seeds man, and failure of the crop.

If at the time of the harvest the roots are gathered, and which should not be retarded beyond the last week in October, lest frost should injure them, a wheat crop may succeed them, and will not be found inferior to any other on the farm; or the land will be in excellent state for barley another year. When the roots are used for fatting bullocks, they will be found more nutritious when they have been gathered two months.

Some farmers use them for the dairy but it is doubted by some, whether they tend to increase the quantity of cream and butter in proportion to the Swedish turnip, certainly the flavour they impart to both is sweetly delicious. But it is now their superiority manifests itself. They are now become more nutritious from keeping, (if they have been carefully preserved,) and answer all the purposes of feeding on the farm, when other vegetables have been consumed, or those left on the ground have run to seed. They afford in all seasons a succedaneum to the farmer for his young stock; and when sliced and put into troughs at the fold, flush the milk of the ewe for her lamb; and in a time of drought the value of the root is incalculable. It is from having a large stock of them on my farm, feeling at this moment their utility and protection against the want (even) of summer pasturage, (for they will continue sound and wholesome food until the coming of the next year's crop,) I wish to attract the attention of my brother farmers to provide themselves with a crop of the Mangel Wurtzel roots to be partakers another year of the like benefits and advantages. M. W.

METHOD OF DRAINING.

A correspondent for the *Farmers' Journal* gives the following process for draining land:

"With a common plough open furrows, in the bottom and centre of which take out the earth from two to three inches wide and four to six deep, by cutting the sides with a common flat spade, and clearing the drain with a narrow tool made for that purpose, then simply returning the soil into its place. The soil which comes out is so trifling, and generally so tender, that after two or three frosty nights it will brush in and improve the surface.

"I have tried this method, and whenever a fall can be got for the water at the outlet, find it answers admirably. With a simple implement which might be made to cut both sides at once, and from nine to fifteen inches at a stroke, the expense might be still further reduced."

Drains of this kind might answer a valuable purpose in some soils and situations. But heavy cattle should not be turned into land thus drained for a year or two after the drains are cut, lest they should break through the turf or covering of the ditches. See an account of Turf covered Drains in the New England Farmer, vol. II. page 17.

PRESERVATION OF GRAIN.

To preserve rye, and secure it from insects and rats, it has been discovered that nothing more is necessary than not to winnow it after being thrashed, but to stow it in the granaries mixed with the chaff. In this state it will keep three or four years without experiencing the smallest alteration, and even without the necessity of being turned to preserve it from humidity and fermentation. Care must be taken, however, not to store it away till thoroughly dry.—*Repertory of Arts.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1825.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, held 30th June, 1825.

Voted, That a premium of Twenty Dollars be granted to the person who shall write and transmit to the Assistant Rec'g Secretary on or before the first day of January next, the best natural history of the Rose Bug, its origin, habits, food, &c. with the best method of destroying this insect, or of preventing the injury it now occasions.

A copy from the Record,
BENJ. GUILD, *Ass. Rec'g Sec'y.*

T. G. Fessenden, Esq.
Editor of the New England Farmer.
Danvers, July 4, 1825.

Dear Sir—At a late meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Essex Agricultural Society, the following opinion of the merits of your paper, expressed by our venerable President, and unanimously approved by the Board, was ordered to be printed. With pleasure I forward it, in the hope that it may serve to extend the circulation of your paper; and at the same time to bring home to you an *increase of those means*, without which it must cease to operate.

With the highest respect,
Your obedient servant,
J. W. PROCTOR.

"The Trustees of the Essex Agricultural Society, desirous of promoting by every proper means the great object of the institution, earnestly recommend to the attention of the Farmers of Essex, the weekly paper entitled the New England Farmer, printed at Boston, and edited by Thomas G. Fessenden, Esq. as a work highly deserving encouragement, for the useful agricultural information which constantly occupies its pages. Without such a vehicle of intelligence of important discoveries and improvements in husbandry, these will remain unknown, except in the immediate neighbourhood, where they are first made.

"The New England Farmer also notices important public transactions and occurrences, of which every person possessing any curiosity to know what is passing in the world will be gratified in receiving information. These notices must necessarily be very brief; because this paper is essentially devoted to the advancement of agriculture. And we know of no weekly publication equally interesting to the *Farmers of New England.* We therefore hope the number of its readers may be greatly increased.

The printers of newspapers in the county of Essex are requested to give this declaration of the Trustees, a place in those papers.

By order of the Board,
T. PICKERING, *President.*
Attest, J. W. PROCTOR, *Secretary.*
June 27, 1825.

FARMER'S CALENDAR.

Harvesting.—It is asserted, as a general rule, that the proper time to reap wheat, or rye, is when the straw begins to shrink and become white about half an inch below the ear. This appearance is a sure indication that the grain has ceased to receive nourishment from the roots of the plant; and by cutting early, provided it is not taken to the barn or stack too green, the following advantages will be gained. First the grain will make more and whiter flour. 2d There will be less wasted by the grain's shelling. 3d By commencing harvest early you will have a fairer prospect of finishing before the last cuttings become too ripe, so that much of the grain will shell out in reaping and securing the crop. 4th If you cut your grain as soon as it will answer, your straw and chaff will contain much more nourishment than if it were bleached and made brittle by the sun, air, dew and rain, all of which combine to deprive it of most of its value for fodder. 5th Should you plough in your stubble immediately after harvest or mow it and secure it for fodder or litter (either of which modes of management is perfectly consonant with the rules of good husbandry) the stubble will make much better food for your cattle or manure for your ground, than if it had yielded all its sweets, and much of its substance to the greedy elements above mentioned.

If your wheat or rye is much affected by blight or rust it should be cut even while still in the milk, and afterwards exposed to the sun and air, till the straw is sufficiently dry and the grain so much hardened that it will answer to deposit in the barn or stack. The heads in such cases should be so placed by the reapers as not to touch the ground. This may be done by laying the top ends of each handful on the lower end of the preceding one.

If your grain is encumbered with grass or weeds you must cut it pretty near the top in order to avoid as much as possible those extraneous substances. It will also be necessary to reap somewhat earlier than might be otherwise expedient, that you may have time to dry the weeds without danger of the grain's shelling out. If your grain is very ripe when you harvest it, the bands should be made early in the morning while the straw is moist and pliable.—And Dr Deane recommended, in such cases, to bind the sheaves when the air begins to be damp towards evening, as the least degree of moisture will toughen the straw.

It has been recommended by several English writers to bind wheat as well as rye with only one length of the straw. If the straw is pretty long, and not very thoroughly dry, this may be good economy. You save the trouble of making bands; your wheat will dry better in the sheaf, (as the sheaves must of course be small,) and though it may take some more time and trouble to pitch and handle it, we believe the advantages, in many cases will turn the scale in favour

of binding wheat with single lengths of straw.

In stowing wheat or rye, some persons deposit the sheaves on a mow of hay; but this is a bad plan, as the grain presses the hay so that it is apt to become musty, and communicate a musty or mouldy taint to the super-incumbent grain; which will be harder to thresh than if it had a more dry and airy location. It may be placed on a scaffold of rails, laid on the beams, and over the floor of a barn; though it is not so easy to procure it for thrashing as if it were laid on a scaffold of less elevation. But this disadvantage may be more than compensated by its being in a situation favorable for drying. If there is a deficiency of barn room, the sheaves may be stored in stacks. In that case "care should be taken that the grain may not draw moisture from the ground, by laying boards, straw or rubbish under the stack. A better way still is to have a tight floor of boards mounted on four blocks, set in the ground, and so high from the ground as to prevent the entering of vermin.

"In building a stack, care should be taken to keep the seed ends of the sheaves in the middle, and a little higher than the outer ends. No fowls can then come at the grain; and the rain that falls on the outer ends will run off, and not pass towards the centre. The stack should be well topped with straw, that the rain may be completely turned off."

Oats.—It is advised to harvest oats before the straw has wholly turned yellow. The straw will be of little value if permitted to stand till it becomes white and destitute of sap. Though oats should be well dried on the ground, after cutting, they should not be raked nor handled when they are in the driest state. They should be gathered mornings and evenings, when the straw is made limber and pliable by the moisture of the air. If they are housed while a little damp, there will be no danger if they have been previously thoroughly dried.

Barley.—We are told by the wise men of agriculture that some of the rules which should be observed in harvesting wheat, rye, and oats will not apply to barley. Willich's Domestic Encyclopedia states that "With respect to the time when barley is fit to be mowed, farmers frequently fall into the error of cutting it before it is perfectly ripe; thinking it will attain to perfect maturity if it lie in the swarth. This, however, is a very common error, as it will shrivel in the field, and afterwards make but an indifferent malt; it also threshes with more difficulty, and is apt to be bruised under the flail. The only certain test of judging when it is fit to mow must be from the dropping and falling of the ears so as to double against the straw. In that state, and not before, it may be cut with all expedition, and carried in without danger to the mow."

Dr Deane's New England Farmer states that "Some have got an opinion that barley should be harvested before it is quite ripe. Though the flour may be a little whiter, the grain shrinks so much, that the crop seems greatly diminished and wasted by early cutting. No grain, I think, requires more ripening than this; and it is not apt to scatter out when it is very ripe.—It should be threshed soon after harvesting; and much beating, after it is cleared from the straw is necessary in order to get off the beards. Let it lie a night or two in the dew, after it is cut, and the beards will come off the more easily."

Bristol County, July 6, 1825.

Mr Fessenden,—I wish to inquire through the medium of your useful paper, if engrafting fruit trees can be successfully managed during this present month? It appears to me that I have somewhere read that it can be done; but am not certain. Therefore, I request some information, as spring grafting has been so unsuccessful in this community, the present season, if any theoretical or practical information can be elicited. And also, I would trouble your patience to know, what scions are best to be used, those that were preserved in the spring, or those immediately taken from the tree; and immediately conveyed to the stock, into which they are to be inserted. Such information is greatly desirable, should you be possessed of it, or any of your correspondents. I am truly yours,

A BRISTOL COUNTY FARMER.

Remarks by the Editor.—In Cobbett's American edition of Forsyth's *Treatise* on the "*Culture and Management of Fruit Trees*," page 137 are the following "*Observations on Grafting.*" In a long continuance of dry weather the grafts very frequently fail of taking; sometimes no doubt, owing to the improper choice of the grafts, as well as the dry weather. Great care should always be taken not to graft with weak shoots, particularly by those taken from near the top. Always take your grafts from the lower end of the shoots, and observe that the wood is plump and fresh; for such as are shrivelled seldom or never take. Where any have missed in the spring, I would advise to cut off about the middle or latter end of June, (in America the middle of July) some fine healthy grafts of the sort you wish to graft with, open the grafts in the same manner as you do for budding, and insert the graft with a piece of the former year's wood on it: After you have done this, rub in, with a brush, some of the composition in a liquid state; then wrap your bass round it, as is done for spring grafting, leaving about three eyes on the shoot, which should be tied on with the bass as tight as you can; then cover the outside of the bass, thus tied up, with the composition to the thickness of about one eighth of an inch, observing also to cover the end of the shoot with the same to exclude the air and wet. In about three weeks or a month, look over the grafts to see if they have taken. When the graft begins to swell, it will throw off the composition: When that is the case always remember to apply more to prevent the air from penetrating the incision.

In the month of September, you should examine whether the wounds are all healed up and the two barks perfectly united, and if they are, you may slacken the bass, and if they are perfectly healed up it may be taken off; but if not, it must again be tied on, and covered with the composition, as before directed; letting it remain till the following spring. You may then take the bass off; and, if you find that the two barks have separated during the season, with the point of a sharp knife, cut out all the brown part of the bark (which if left would infallibly bring on canker,) and rub the composition into the wound. If your grafts have produced strong leading shoots, the tops of them should be pinched off with the finger and thumb; but if they have not shot strong they should not be cut till the spring, when they should be cut to three or four eyes, according to their strength, to make them produce horizontal shoots, and form handsome heads. This grafting should always be performed in moist or cloudy weather.

Grafting or budding should be performed as near to the upper side of a bud as possible.—The most proper place for inserting the cion or bud, is at the joint a little above the cross shoot.

Although Forsyth's composition, mentioned above, is well known to most, it may be new to some who cultivate fruit trees. It is made as follows "Take one bushel of fresh cow dung, half a bushel of lime rubbish from old buildings, (that from the ceilings of rooms is preferable,) half a bushel of wood ashes, and a sixteenth part of a bushel of pit or river sand. The three last articles are to be sifted fine before they are mixed; then work them well together with a spade, and afterwards with a wooden beater, until the stuff is very smooth, like fine plaster used for the ceiling of rooms. Where lime rubbish cannot conveniently be procured, pounded chalk, or common lime, after having been slacked a month, may be used. If any of the composition, after using it, be left for a future occasion, it should be kept in a tub or other vessel, and urine of any kind poured on it, so as to cover the surface."

The mode of applying this composition is as follows: "All dead and injured parts must first be taken away, and the sound fresh wood laid bare, leaving the surface of the wood very smooth, and rounding off the edges of the bark with a drawknife, perfectly smooth; then lay on the plaster $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch thick; and take a quantity of dry powder of wood ashes, mixed with a sixth part of the same quantity of the ashes of burnt bones, put it into a tin box with holes in the top, and shake the powder on the surface of the plaster, till the whole is covered over with it, letting it remain for half an hour, to absorb the moisture; then apply more powder, rubbing it gently with the hand, and repeating the application of the powder till the whole plaster becomes a dry smooth surface."

The best way of using this composition is found to be in a liquid form, to which it may be reduced by mixing it with a sufficient quantity of urine and soap suds to make the compound assume the consistence of a pretty thick paint, which should be laid on with a painter's brush. The powder of wood ashes should then be applied as before directed, patting it down with the hand.

Dr Thacher, says (see Orchardist, page 64) "It is immaterial whether we employ Forsyth's composition, or the clay as prepared for grafting, or an ointment composed of rosin, bees-wax, and turpentine. Some prefer a composition of tar with a little bees-wax, simmered together, to which some red ochre is added." For a particular description of the mode of forming this last mentioned composition, see Gen. Dearborn's communication page 369 of the current volume of the N. E. Farmer. There is danger, however, in the use of tar, or turpentine, unless it be combined with ochre, or some other absorbent substance to prevent its penetrating the pores of the scions, (see a communication signed "*Rusticus*" in the page above referred to, and the remarks on it in the next page). *Budding or inoculation* is an eligible substitute for grafting in the summer season. For notices of the manner of performing this process we would refer our correspondent to the New England Farmer, vol. II, pages 253, 266. See likewise some observations on grafting by Mr Preston, N. E. Farmer vol. I. page 121.

☞Owing to the length of several articles this week, we must defer some valuable communications, &c.

MISCELLANIES.

[The following picture of an industrious mother, struggling with misfortune, but supported by the consolations of religion, and the satisfaction of a well-spent life, is drawn by Dugald Stewart; of whom it has been said, that "he would have taken his place among the first poets of the age, had he not chosen to have become its first philosopher."]

LINES ON AN UNFORTUNATE LADY.

A lingering struggle of misfortune past,
Here patient virtue found repose at last;
Unpraised, unknown, with cheerful step she strayed
Through life's bleak wilds and fortune's darkest shade,
Nor courted fame to lend one friendly ray
To gild the darkening horrors of the way.

When fired by hope, or eager for applause,
The hero suffers in a public cause,
Unfelt, unheeded, falls misfortune's dart,
And fame's sweet echoes cheer the drooping heart:
The patriot's toils immortal laurels yield,
And death itself is envied in the field.

Hers was the humbler yet severer fate
To pine unnoticed in a private state;
Hers were the sufferings which no laurels bring—
The generous labours which no muses sing,
The cares that haunt the parent and the wife,
And the still sorrows of domestic life.

What, though no pageant o'er her humble earth
Proclaim the empty honors of her birth!
What, though around no sculptured columns rise,
No verse record the conquest of her eyes!
Yet here shall flow the poor's unbidden tear,
And feeble age shall shed his blessings here.

Here shall the virtues which her soul possessed,
With sweet remembrance sooth a husband's breast;
And here in silent grief shall oft repair
The helpless objects of her latest care,
Recall her worth—their adverse fate bemoan—
And in a mother's fate forget their own.

Dr. Parr.—Every anecdote, however trifling, respecting this giant in literature, must be interesting. It is well known that the learned Grecian smokes tobacco, and that every day, whether at home or abroad, he indulges in this his favourite weed.—When Dr P. had the honour of dining at Carlton Palace, his Majesty was so condescending as to give him a smoking room, and the company of Col. ———, in order that he might suffer no inconvenience. "I don't like to be smoked myself, doctor," said the royal wit, "but I am anxious that your pipe should not be put out."—One day Dr Parr was to dine at the house of Mr ———, who informed his lady of the circumstance, and of the doctor's passion for a pipe. The lady was much mortified and inflamed by this intimation, and with some warmth she said, "I tell you what, Mr ———, I don't care a fig for Dr P.'s Greek; he sha'n't smoke here." "My dear," replied the husband, "he must smoke; he is allowed to smoke every where." "Excuse me, Mr ———, he shall not smoke here; leave it to me, my dear, I'll manage it." The doctor came; a splendid dinner ensued; the Grecian was very brilliant. After dinner the doctor called for "pipes." "Pipes!" screamed the lady, "pipes for what purpose!"—"Why, to smoke, madam!" "Oh! my dear doctor, I can't have pipes here; you'll spoil my place; my curtains will smell of tobacco for a week." "Not smoke!" exclaimed the astonished and offended Grecian; "why, madam, I have smoked in better houses."—"Perhaps so, sir" replied the lady with dignity; and she added with firmness, "I shall be most happy, doctor, to show you the rites of hospitality; but you cannot be allowed to smoke." "Then," said Dr Parr, looking at her ample person, "then, madam, I must say, madam,"—"Sir, sir, are you going to be rude?" "I must say, madam," he continued, "*that you are the greatest tobacco stopper in all England.*"

The Cocooy Queen Beetle, or Queen Bug, from Havana, still alive, at the Museum.—This astonishing insect is about one inch and a quarter in length, and what is wonderful to relate, she carries by her side, just above her waist, 2 brilliant lamps, which she lights up at pleasure, with the solar phosphorus, furnished her by nature. These little lamps do not flash and glimmer, like that of the Fire Fly, but give as steady light as the gas light, exhibiting two perfect spheres, as large as a minute pearl, which afford light enough, in the darkest night, to enable one to read print by them! On carrying her into a dark closet, in the day-time, she immediately illuminates her lamps, and instantly extinguishes them on coming again into the light.—*N. Haven Herald.*

Female Society.—Nothing is better adapted to give that last polish to the education of a young man than the conversation of virtuous and accomplished women. Their society serves to smooth the rough edges of our characters, and to mellow our tempers. In short, the man who has never been acquainted with females of the better class, is not only deprived of the purest pleasure, but also will have little success in social life; and I should not like to be connected by the bonds of friendship with a man that has a bad opinion and speaks ill of the female sex in general.

An extra ordinary.—An avaricious person, who kept a very scanty table, dining one Saturday with his son at an ordinary in Cambridge, whispered in his ear, "Tom, you must eat for to day and to morrow." "O yes," retorted the half starved lad, "but I ha'nt eaten for yesterday and the day before, yet, father."

Thoughts on several subjects.—Nothing is more unmannerly than to reflect on any man's profession, sect, or natural infirmity. He, who stirs up against himself another's self-love, provokes the strongest passion in human nature.

Be careful of your word, even in keeping the most trifling appointment, but do not blame another, for a failure of that kind, till you have heard his excuse.

Do well, but do not boast of it; for that will lessen the commendation you might otherwise have deserved.

Too much preciseness and solemnity in pronouncing what one says in common conversation, as if he was preaching, is generally taken for an indication of self conceit.

Make your company a rarity, and people will value it. Men despise what they can easily have.

What is there which can be put into comparison with the blessings of daily bread and nightly rest, of sound bodies and vigorous understanding, of society of children, and parents, and brothers and friends?

The Third Time.—The facetious Dr. B. of W having, inadvertently, preached one of his early sermons for the *third* time, one of his parishioners having noticed it, said to him after service, "Doctor, the sermon you preached us this morning, having had three several readings, I move that it now be *passed.*"

A butcher of eminence was lately in company with several ladies at whist, where having lost two or three rubbers, one of the ladies addressing him, asked, Pray sir, what are stakes now? To which, thinking of his business, he replied, Madam, the best rump I cannot sell lower than a shilling a pound.

New England Farmer.

THE 4th volume of the *New England Farmer* will commence the 29th of July inst. This work has been published nearly three years, and conducted in such a manner as to elicit the approbation of the *Massachusetts Agricultural Society*, the *Worcester Agricultural Society*, the *Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry*, the *Essex Agricultural Society*, and *Kings county Agricultural Society*, Nova Scotia; each of which Societies has officially recommended the publication to public patronage. Gentlemen, who are desirous of having the next volume complete are requested to forward their names soon, that the publisher may begin with a suitable number: the demand for the work, after the last volume had been begun, was so great, that it was not possible to supply back numbers to many who wished to obtain them.

Agricultural Societies, who may wish to have copies to the amount of 10 or upwards reserved in the office and bound, to be presented for premiums, &c. can have them at a reasonable discount by sending their orders soon.—This plan has been adopted by several Societies the past year.

The Publisher hopes to be able to give a greater number of engravings of new agricultural implements &c. in the next volume, than in the preceding ones.

The FARMER is published weekly—and contains 8 royal quarto pages—on good paper. The price is $3.00 per annum, payable in the course of the year, or $2.50 if paid in advance. The paper is paged, and a title-page and copious index given gratis at the end of the volume. Persons who procure *five* responsible subscribers are entitled to one volume gratis. Gentlemen at a distance can have the work punctually forwarded to them on the receipt of one year's subscription.

☞We intend to publish next week a list of Agents, to whom payment can be made in advance for the 4th volume.

T. G. FESSENDEN.
J. B. RUSSELL.

The Improved Durham Short Horned Bull ADMIRAL, *and the Herefordshire Bull* SIR ISAAC.

THE Trustees of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society will let out, upon reasonable terms, the above named imported animals. They were purchased and presented to the Society by Admiral Coffin for the benefit of his native state. Reliance may be placed on the purity of the stock. The Calves of Admiral have proved very fine. He is now four years old, and is on the farm of E. H. DERBY, Esq. at Salem. His term will expire there the 16th of August, after which he may be had for one year, in any other county.

The Hereford Bull is two years old,—is now on the farm of JOHN PRINCE, Esq. Roxbury. His term will expire on the 12th July. Any person wishing him at an earlier period will be accommodated. They are both very gentle and fine-tempered. The stock of Admiral are peculiarly calculated for the *Stall* and *Dairy*. The Hereford breed have sometimes carried prizes in England against the "Short Horns," as *Beef Cattle*.—They are also admirable *Draught* cattle, and esteemed good for the *Dairy*.

The terms will be reasonable and advantageous to the persons who shall take them for one year, and take good care of them, as the great object of the Trustees is to give an opportunity of crossing our native breeds under the hope of improving them.—For terms apply to JOHN LOWELL, or JOHN PRINCE, Esq. Roxbury.

Roxbury, May 1825.